Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) have been launched w.e.f. 3.12.2005. Under the Mission, focus on the health and sanitation facilities for the urban poor is given through the convergence of the sectoral schemes at the Urban Local Body (ULB) level.

Survey and report on educational status of Muslims

†*74. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Minority Affairs had requested for conducting a separate survey and preparation of a report by NSSO on educational status of Muslims;

(b) if so, when such request was made by that Ministry;

(c) whether follow-up action has also been taken after accepting the request; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) No specific request for a separate survey and preparation of report on educational status of Muslims has been received from the Ministry of Minority Affairs. However, this Ministry, while finalizing the subject for the forthcoming 65th round to be conducted during July 2008-June 2009, had written to all Ministries in February, 2007 on their data requirement. In response to this, the Ministry of Minority Affairs had made a request on 1st March, 2007 to collect the State-wise data for the five notified minority communities; *i.e.* Muslims, Christian, Sikh. Buddhist and Parsis, on the following items.

1. Difference in level of consumption among socio-economic groups.
2. Education and vocational training: its level, nature and cost.
3. Drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.
4. Unorganised service sector: characteristics of enterprises.
5. Condition of urban slums.
6. Report on village facilities.
7. Housing condition: household amenities and other characteristics.
8. Household indebtedness/borrowings and repayments.
9. Employment and Unemployment Situation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

10. Participation of women in specified activities.

11. Population below poverty line and below double the poverty line.

(c) and (d) The request for the data made by the Ministry of Minority Affairs was discussed in the 2nd meeting of Steering Committee of National Sample Survey, held during 12-13 March 2007 (The committee is empowered to take all technical decisions in respect of subject, survey work from planning to release of results). The Committee observed that the data requested by the Ministry of Minority Affairs could be met from existing data collected during various NSS rounds by analysing them according to religious groups. The Committee also suggested that the Ministry of Minority Affairs might begin with the unit level data of 61st round (July 2004-June 2005) and get the data tabulated as per its requirement.

Enhancement of spectrum availability

*75. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has proposed to cap the number of telecom operators, prompted by the unavailability of spectrum;

(b) whether Government consider that such a move by TRAI would curtail competition in the telecom industry to the detriment of consumers; and

(c) the steps being taken to enhance spectrum availability to accommodate new players in the industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Defence Services are to release further spectrum for unimpeded growth of public mobile telecom services by shifting of certain Defence wireless links to alternate media like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC).

Silt along Ganga at Allahabad

*76. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that River Ganga at Allahabad has been depositing heavy silt along the bank on Allahabad side;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the main channel has swung away towards the low lands on Phaphamau side;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the main channel, as a result of tangential flow towards the left bank, is liable to cause colossal loss of property, cut off rail and road communication from across Ganga and cause long term damage; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken to address the situation?